Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (Currently amended)   A billing system for determining transportation charges for ~~a~~ **a** ~~packages~~ **package** movable along a conveyor, said billing system comprising:

a microprocessor;

a reader to read a package identifier associated with said package, said reader generating a package identification signal and transmitting the signal to ~~a~~ **the** microprocessor; **and**

a package sizer **to measure a size of said package, the package sizer** having a plurality of spaced non-contact optical sensors being positioned on at ~~last~~ **least** an y and a ~~z,~~ **z** axis for measuring a height and a width of a package, **and a means for measuring a length of said package,** said width being determined by the package blocking one ~~of~~ **or** more of said sensors positioned along said z axis to **create a reduction in** ~~reduce~~ the amount of ambient light reaching said one or more sensors **and by at least one of said sensors positioned along said z axis sensing said reduction, said means for measuring a length of said package** ~~the package sizer further~~ comprising an apparatus to measure a speed of the package and a length of time the package takes to pass by the optical sensors; ~~and~~

~~a~~ **the** microprocessor **being configured** to receive and correlate said package identification signal and said package size for billing purposes, said microprocessor including a data table for billing charges based on package sizes, the microprocessor further being configured to calculate a length of said package based on said speed and time measurements, whereby said measured package size can be compared to said data table to determine a transportation charge for said measured package.

12. (Previously Presented)   A billing system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said y and z axis sensors define a measurement plane through which said package being measured passes.

13. (Original) A billing system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said sizer further includes optical signal sources directed at said optical sensors along the y axis.

14. (Original) A billing system as claimed in claim 13 further including optical input guides to shield said optical sensors from stray light sources.

15. (Original) A billing system as claimed in claim 13 further including optical signal guides to direct an optical output from said optical signal sources towards said optical sensors.

16. (Original) A billing system as claimed in claim 11 further including a motor to drive said conveyor to pass said package past said sensors.

17. (Original) A billing system as claimed in claim 16 further including a speed sensor to measure the actual speed of said package as it passes said sensors.

18. (Previously presented)   A billing system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said system measures the time a package takes to pass past said sensors.

19. (Previously presented)   A billing system as claimed in claim 11 further including a light source located above said z axis sensors.

20. (Currently amended) A method of determining transportation charges for packages by using a billing system having non-contact optical sensors, said method comprising the steps of:

  identifying a package by means of a reader;

  passing the package past sensors located in a y and z axis **to measure a height and a width of said package, the width being measured by the sensors on said z axis sensing a reduction in ambient light caused by the package blocking said sensors on said z axis,** and measuring a length of said package on an x axis **by measuring a speed of said package, and by measuring a length of time said package takes to pass by the optical sensors**;

  determining a volume of said package from ~~said~~ **readings from said** sensors ~~readings~~ and said length of said package;

  measuring a weight of the package;

  correlating the package identifier with said measured weight and volume of said package

in a database;

      displaying the measured weight and volume; and

      determining a charge for said package based upon said measured weight and volume upon acceptance of the displayed package parameters.

21. (Original) A method of determining transportation charges for a package as claimed in claim 20 wherein said method further includes an initialization step, in which all of the non-contact optical sensors are temporarily energized to permit visual verification of system operation.

22. (Original) A method of determining transportation charges for a package as claimed in claim 21 further including the step of checking each optical sensor upon start up and detecting any faults therein.

23. (Original) A method of determining transportation charges for a package as claimed in claim 22 further including the step of displaying an error message upon a fault being detected in an optical sensor.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of determining transportation charges for a package as claimed in claim 23 further including the step of identifying a location of said detected fault and displaying said location of said detected ~~folds~~ fault.

25 (Previously presented) A billing system as claimed in claim 11 further including a weigh scale associated with said sizer, said weigh scale sensing a weight of each of said packages on said sizer and producing a weight signal, wherein said microprocessor receives said weight signal and correlates the same with said package identification signal and said package size signal for billing purposes.

26. (Previously presented) A billing system as claimed in claim 11 wherein a dimension of a package is measured by determining the distance between the two most spaced apart sensors which detect the presence of said package.